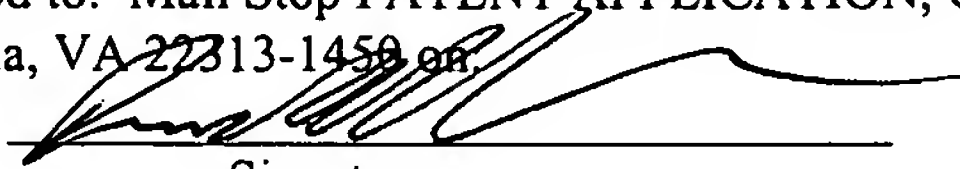


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL addressed to: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

12/22/05  
Date

  
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Masignani et al.

Serial No.: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

Examiner: Not Assigned

Title: VIRULENCE-ASSOCIATED ADHESINS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

A listing of claims begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.